

HOUSE BILL 947

By Lamberth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-1004 and Section 49-6-4302, relative to school safety grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4302, is amended by deleting subsections (b)-(d) and substituting instead the following:

(b) The Tennessee school safety center is responsible for the collection and analysis of data related to school safety, including alleged violent or assaultive acts against school employees and students. The center shall make periodic reports to the education committee of the senate and the education committee of the house of representatives on the status of school safety efforts.

(c)

(1) The Tennessee school safety center, within the limit of appropriations for the center, shall establish school safety grants to assist LEAs in funding programs that address school safety, including, but not limited to, innovative violence prevention programs, conflict resolution, disruptive or assaultive behavior management, improved school security, school resource officers, school safety officers, peer mediation, and training for employees on the identification of possible perpetrators of school-related violence.

(2) The Tennessee school safety center shall develop a school safety grant application that requires an LEA to describe, at a minimum, how the grant funds:

(A) Will be used to improve and support school safety;

(B) Align with the needs identified in a school safety assessment;  
and

(C) Will be used to support the LEA's authorized charter schools,  
if applicable.

(3) In order to be eligible to receive grant funds, an LEA must be in  
compliance with all state laws, rules, and regulations regarding school safety.

(d) Any school safety grant awarded to an eligible LEA under subsection (c)  
must be distributed according to the following funding model:

(1) Funding is available to each LEA in the same percentage that the  
LEA's share of basic education program (BEP) funding bears to statewide BEP  
funding;

(2) Funding is subject to a twenty-five percent (25%) match by the LEA,  
adjusted for the LEA's fiscal capacity under the BEP formula. The match  
requirement may be satisfied by local or contributed funds or by personnel or  
other in-kind expenses assumed by the LEA; and

(3) Any funds appropriated for this program in any fiscal year that are not  
expended must be carried forward for program purposes in future fiscal years.  
Any allocation for an LEA that is not applied for, or is not successfully applied for  
in any fiscal year, cannot be carried forward for the benefit of that LEA in  
subsequent fiscal years, but must instead be carried forward for future  
expenditures under this program in future fiscal years.

(e) The Tennessee school safety center shall reserve monies to fund school  
safety grants based on applications received from LEAs with schools that did not have a  
full-time school resource officer during the 2018-2019 school year and that describe the  
LEA's intent to utilize the grant for school resource officers, and to that end, the center  
shall prioritize school safety grants based on such applications. Any reserved funding  
awarded pursuant to this subsection (e) must be allocated in accordance with subsection

(d) and must be available for school safety grants awarded for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. Any reserved funds that are not awarded pursuant to this subsection (e) must be reallocated in accordance with subsection (d).

(f) LEAs are authorized to act in partnership with local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of hiring school resource officers under the state grant program set forth in § 38-8-115.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-1004, is amended by deleting the language "§ 49-6-4302(c)(2)" and substituting instead the language "§ 49-6-4302(d)".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.